

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

ALL NATO CAPITALS 4607

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 6104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: US NATO-ARMOR BRIEFING FOR DPC MEETING, OCTOBER 31, 1974

SUMMARY: US TEAM PRESENTED EXCELLENT BRIEFING ON US ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAM, ELICITING VERY FAVORABLE COMMENT AND STIMULATING THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS. QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON AIR FORCE NIGHT/ALL-WEATHER CAPABILITIES, WARSAW PACT CAPABILITIES, AND RATIONALE FOR US ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS NUMBERS AND MIX. MISSION CONSIDERS BRIEFING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO US EFFORT TO PROMOTE PROGRESS IN THIS BASIC ISSUE. END SUMMARY

1. PANSA (CHAIRMAN) INTRODUCED BRIEFING AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE:

"PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL RECALL THAT THE ORIGINAL AD70 REPORT DREW SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO GIVE A HIGH PRIORITY TO DEFENCE AGAINST ARMOUR, WHICH IS ONE SECRET

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OF THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS IN THE STRENGTH OF THE WARSAW PACT. LATER, AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE UNITED STATES, THIS CAPABILITY WAS SELECTED AS ONE OF THE "BASIC ISSUES" FOR STUDY IN THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE. AS YOU KNOW, THE DEFENCE REVIEW

COMMITTEE IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINING NATIONAL DEFENCE PLANS FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 1980, AND PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PROGRAMMES OF DEFENCE AGAINST ARMOUR.

"THE DEFENCE REVIEW IS, OF COURSE, NOT YET COMPLETED, BUT IT APPEARS THAT IN THE ANTI-ARMOUR FIELD THERE IS GOOD PROGRESS WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW GENERATION WEAPON SYSTEMS SUCH AS MILAN, TOW AND SWINGFIRE. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SOME DOUBTS WHETHER IN ALL CASES THESE WEAPONS ARE BEING INTRODUCED IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES AND SUFFICIENTLY EARLY.

"THERE IS ALSO GOOD PROGRESS TO REPORT WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF MODERN TANKS, SUCH AS THE LEOPARD AND THE CHIEFTAIN. PROGRESS IS SATISFACTORY IN THE CENTRAL REGION, THOUGH THERE IS ONE COUNTRY THAT STILL HAS TO TAKE A DECISION. RE-EQUIPMENT IS PROCEEDING AT A SLOWER PACE ON THE FLANKS.

"IN SPITE OF THIS, WE MUST NOT BE COMPLACENT. IN THE MBFR GUIDELINES AREA ALONE WE ARE CONFRONTED BY ABOUT 17,000 WARSAW PACT TANKS ALREADY IN POSITION, AGAINST WHICH WE HAVE LITTLE MORE THAN 6,700. OUR ABILITY TO DEAL ADEQUATELY WITH THIS THREAT IS ONE OF THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS IN OUR STRATEGY. IT IS TO STIMULATE AND SUPPORT FURTHER EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD THAT BRIG. GENERAL YOUREE AND HIS TEAM HAVE COME OVER FROM WASHINGTON TO GIVE US THIS BRIEFING TODAY. END QUOTE

2. MCAULIFFE(US) IN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTED SIGNIFICANCE OF THREAT POSED BY SOVIET TANKS IN GDE AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. REMOVAL OF SOVIET TANK ARMY IS A PRIME OBJECTIVE IN MBFR. WHILE PRESENTATION WOULD FOCUS ON CENTER REGION, THIS DOES NOT IMPLY WE ARE UNCONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION ON FLANKS. HOWEVER, COMMITTEE WOULD RECALL EXPERIENCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE IN WORLD WAR II DEMONSTRATING SPEED WITH WHICH TANK ARMIES CAN ADVANCE. MCAULIFFE TOLD COMMITTEE THAT WHILE US IS NOT UNAWARE OF EVENTS IN LAST 15 MONTHS THAT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN OR RE-LEARN LESSONS ON ARMORED WARFARE, PRESENTATION WOULD MAKE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO THEM BECAUSE OF CERTAIN SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED

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HE ASKED COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT ON FAITH THAT US HAS TAKEN LESSONS INTO ACCOUNT IN ITS ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAM. HE STATED US BRIEFING TEAM WAS PREPARED TO HELP PERMREPS AND THEIR STAFFS DURING STAY IN BRUSSELS, OR TO TRAVEL TO NATIONAL CAPITALS TO PRESENT BRIEFING OR OTHERWISE HELP IF DESIRED.

3. US TEAM DELIVERED BRIEFING IN IMPRESSIVE MANNER, PROVOKING VERY FAVORABLE COMMENT AND STIMULATING THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS. PANSA CHARACTERIZED BRIEFING AS EXTREMELY INTERESTING, AND REMARKED HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY MAGNITUDE OF US ANTI-ARMOR EFFORT. HE SINGLED OUT EXTENSIVE R&D PROGRAM AS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSIVE. PANSA OPENED QUESTIONS BY REFERRING TO PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN AIR

FORCE ADVERSE-WEATHER CAPABILITY AND ASKING, ASIDE FROM LASER, HOW GOOD IS TODAY'S CAPABILITY, PENDING FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS. TEAM RESPONDED THAT OUR PRESENT CAPABILITY IS GOOD USING MAVERICK IN ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, BUT CONTINUING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ARE IMPORTANT. PANSA THEN ASKED IF CAPABILITY IS GOOD AT NIGHT ALSO (EXCLUDING LASER). TEAM ELABORATED ON F-111 NIGHT/ALL WEATHER CAPABILITIES AND ITS CAPABILITY AGAINST ARMOR, ENHANCED BY ROCKEYE. TEAM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NIGHT IMPOSES GREATEST LIMITATIONS CURRENTLY AND IS A PRIMARY AREA OF CONCERN.

4. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) POSED TWO QUESTIONS: (A) HOW EFFECTIVE ARE ENEMY COUNTERMEASURES AND WEAPONS; (B) DOES OUR ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITY OFFSET WARSAW PACT NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN TANKS? TEAM RESPONDED THAT OUR AIRCRAFT ARE QUALITATIVELY SUPERIOR TO PACT AIRCRAFT, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY ECCM, PAYLOAD, RANGE, AND LOITER TIME. FURTHER, PACT AIR CAPABILITIES OVER OWN TERRITORY ARE GOOD, BUT DIMINISH IF OPERATING OUTSIDE OWN TERRITORY. DR. PAYNE ADDED THAT ARMY WEAPONS NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO ENEMY COUNTERMEASURES, SO FAR AS WE KNOW. CONCERNING ENEMY ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE AND WEAPONS MIX/WE STUDY THESE FACTORS AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY. REGARDING DE STAERCKE'S SECOND QUESTION, TEAM POINTED OUT THAT OUR EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED AT OVERCOMING DISPARITY, AND WE WERE CONFIDENT WE ARE MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION. DR PAYNE ADDED THAT NATO SHOULD NOT TRY TO MATCH PACT ONE-FOR-ONE IN TANKS. SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE MILITARILY UNSOUND. SIMPLE NUMERICAL COUNT IS INCORRECT BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY POWER. OUR PROGRAM OF QUALITATIVE TANK IMPROVEMENTS COUPLED TO INCREASED QUANTITIES OF IMPROVED ANTI-TANK WEAPONS IS CORRECT APPROACH.

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INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

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CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
ALL NATO CAPITALS 4608

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5. PECK (UK) ALSO HAD TWO QUERIES: (A) HAS INCREASED IN ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITIES IN US GROUND FORCES RESULTED IN A DECREASE IN OTHER CAPABILITIES; (B) WITH REFERENCE TO MID-EAST WAR, HAS US TAKEN HIGH ATTRITION RATES EXPERIENCED THERE INTO ACCOUNT IN CALCULATIONS TO DETERMINE TYPE, NUMBERS AND MIX OF WEAPONS? DR. PAYNE SAID INCREASING NUMBES OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONS IN US ARMY FORCES HAD NOT REDUCED OTHER CAPABILITIES. CONCERNING PECK'S SECOND QUESTION, TEAM ANSWERED THAT WITH RESPECT TO AIR FORCES, THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SITUATION IN MID-EAST WAR AND SITUATION THAT WOULD OBTAIN IN CENTER REGION, CITING DIFFERENCES IN WEATHER, TACTICS, AND AVAILABILITY OF COUNTERMEASURES. THESE FACTORS COULD LOWER ATTRITION RATES IN CENTER REGION. DR. PAYNE SAID THAT MID-EAST WAR CONFIRMED US THINKING ON ATTRITION RATES. AS RESULT, ARMY HAS INCREASED ATRITION RATS USED IN PLANNING BY FACTOR OF ABOUT 2.5 AND IS PROCURING REPLACEMENT EQUIMENT ON THAT BASIS.

6. PANSA SAID THAT WHILE US AIR FORCE HAS SUBSTANTIAL CAPABILITY TO  
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USE COUNTERMEASURES TO PROTECT ITS AIRCRAFT, ALLIED AIR FORCES LAG BEHIND. US TEAM POINTED OUT THAT THEIR PRESENTATION CONCERNED US SYSTEMS AND CAPABILITIES. THESE OR SIMILAR SYSTEMS ARE AVAILABLE TO ALLIES, AND US WOULD LIKE TO SEE GREATER ALLIED INTEREST IN THIS AREA SINCE THE TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE.

7. SVART (DENMARK) ASKED HOW EFFECTIVE SOVIET ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES ARE. DR. PAYNE DESCRIBED SAGGER AS FIRST GENERATION ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE. IN OUR ANAYSES, WE ASSESS IT AS EQUIVALENT OF TOW. HOWEVER, SAGGER'S LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE VERY MUCH FUNCTION OF LEVEL OF OPERATOR TRAINING. OPERATORS IN FIRST LINE UNITS ARE WELL TRAINED; THOSE IN SECOND LINE UNITS LESS SO, WITH CONSEQUENT DECREASE IN SAGGER'S EFFECTIVENESS. US HAS ABANDONED SYSTEMS REQUIRING EXTENSIVE OPERATOR TRAINING.

8. MENZIES (CANADA) ASKED WHETHER US IS SATISFIED IT HAS ARRIVED AT OPTIMUM NUMBER AND MIX FOR ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES OR IS US STILL STUDYING QUESTION. OTHER FORCES, SUCH AS CANADA'S, HAVE THINNER MIXES OF SUCH WEAPONS. IS MIX IN US FORCES VARIED? DR. PAYNE REPLIED THAT US CONSIDERS IT HAS CORRECT NUMBERS AND MIX. NUMBER OF TOW AND DRAGON IS SAME IN ALL US ARMY DIVISIONS, SAVE AIRBORNE DIVISION. THIS REFLECTS ARMY'S EMPHASIS AND ORIENTATION ON NATO REQUIREMENTS. FOR LESSER CONTINGENCIES, CONUS DIVISIONS WOULD DEPLOY WITHOUT SOME OF ITS TOW AND DRAGON.

9. CHAIRMAN THANKED TEAM AND US AUTHORITIES FOR BRIEFING, AND AGAIN STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF THIS BASIC ISSUE. MCAULIFFE,

CONCLUDING REMARKS, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ADVERSE WEATHER AND NIGHT CONDITIONS POSE PROBLEMS FOR AIR FORCES, BUT POINTED OUT THESE SAME CONDITIONS POSE PROBLEMS FOR ATTACKING ARMOR FORCES AS WELL, PARTICULARLY WHEN OPERATING OVER UNFAMILIAR TERRAIN. HE RENEWED OFFER TO PROVIDE INFORMATION US ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAM OR PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE AT NATO OR IN CAPITALS.

10. MISSION CONSIDERS BRIEFING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN US EFFORT TO PROMOTE PROGRESS IN ANTI-ARMOR IMPROVEMENTS AND OFFERS SINCERE APPRECIATION TO BG YOUREE AND MEMBERS OF HIS TEAM, TO DR. PAYNE (WHO WAS PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE ANSWERING QUESTIONS) AND TO OTHERS INVOLVED IN PRESENTATION. FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING THREE PERMREPS INDIVIDUALLY CONTACTED MCAULIFFE TO PRAISE THE BRIEFING.

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11. MISSION INTENDS TO CIRCULATE COPIES OF BRIEFING AND VU-GRAPHS TO SYG, IS, DPC PERMREPS, AND CHAIRMAN MC. MISSION COORDINATED THIS MESSAGE WITH BG YOUREE AND DR. PAYNE.  
MCAULIFFE

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